

CNO and MCPON Visit 5th Fleet Sailors for Thanksgiving Holiday

By MC1 Matthew R. White

U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, Bahrain — Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathan Greenert and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens visited with Sailors and Marines assigned to U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain, Nov. 26-27.

Greenert began by talking about the importance of the Navy and its growing presence in Bahrain.

“We are in high demand,” said Greenert. “Things are stabilizing a little but this is not a stable world. It’s all about forward presence. Two weeks ago we briefed the President and he was very clear; for us, it’s presence, that’s what we do. You’re bringing stability out here.”

“Bahrain is the Navy’s central command headquarters, the 5th Fleet headquarters,” said Greenert. “It will continue to be the centerpiece of the Navy in the Middle East,” Greenert added.

Greenert also addressed budget and operating cost concerns.

“In Fiscal Year 14, the forces forward are going to be pretty well taken care of,” said Greenert. “The forces that are next to deploy are going to be pretty well taken care of. My number one goal is to get more money put in the operating account”.



Photo by MC2 Derric Cushman

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathan Greenert shakes the hands of newly reenlisted Sailors during an all-hands call at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain.

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NSA Bahrain Selects Youth of the Year



Photo by MC1 (SW) Steve Smith

Kiera Lewis, NSA Bahrain's Youth of the Year, poses for a photo with Capt. David Meron, commanding officer of NSA Bahrain.

By MC1 (SW) Steve Smith
Staff Writer

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, Bahrain — Kiera Lewis, a 17-year-old senior attending the Bahrain High School, was selected as the Boys and Girls Club of America (BGCA) 2013 Youth of the Year for Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain.

The Youth of the Year is selected for outstanding contributions within his or her family, school, community and the BGCA. Candidates have also overcome personal challenges and obstacles, achieved academic success and lead a healthy lifestyle.

“It is a program that provides so many wonderful opportunities, as well as, a chance for some of our outstanding young people to get some well deserved recognition,” said Jarod Bailey, Youth Director for Child and Youth Programs (CYP) Bahrain. “It encourages our teens to make an impact and get involved in their community in a positive way so they have the tools necessary to be future leaders. Bahrain Child and Youth

Programs is committed to ensuring our youth have every opportunity we can provide to them.”

Kiera Lewis has been a member of the NSA Bahrain CYP Teen Center for two years. She competed against three other teens during an all-day BGCA Keystone event, which included forums, discussions, a written essay and speeches from each candidate. At the end of the event, a panel of judges chose the winner.

“I think the award was well deserved,” said GySgt. Dalton Lewis, Kiera Lewis’ father. “She has excelled far beyond any of my expectations. Kiera has all the characteristics of a leader. If I tell her she can’t do something, she goes out to prove me wrong and it’s a great quality. I want her to continue to grow, prosper and be the best in everything she tries to do.”

Kiera Lewis said she arrived in Bahrain during her junior year of high school and she was not excited, at first, to be moving to a different school. However, she decided to approach the change with a positive attitude. During her time

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HUMANITARIAN AND FORMER NBA PLAYER DIKEMBE MUTOMBO VISITS NSA BAHRAIN, P. 4



HAGEL TOURS USS PONCE DURING BAHRAIN VISIT, P. 5

THESE STORIES AND MORE...

Family Life at NSA Bahrain



Photos by MC1 (SW) Steve Smith

Capt. David Meron, commanding officer of NSA Bahrain, along with three important helpers, light the tree and begin the MWR Night of Extraordinary Lights.

Tree Lighting and Night of Extraordinary Lights



439-4520
www.cnic.navy.mil/bahrain

Commanding Officer
Naval Support Activity Bahrain
Capt. David Meron

NSA Bahrain Executive Officer
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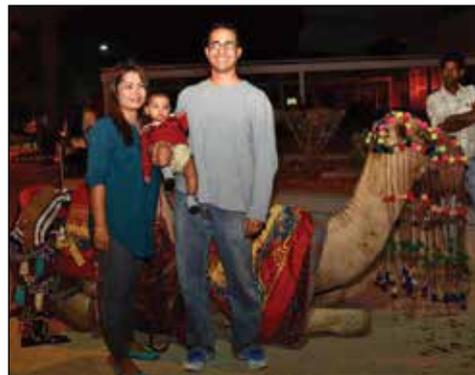
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Chaplain's Corner Programming Updates



By Shaun S. Brown
NSA Bahrain Command Chaplain

IN ADDITION TO regularly-scheduled chapel programming, holiday programming for the NSA Bahrain community is as follows:

- **12 December, Thursday:**
1500-1730 Club Beyond Jr HS & HS Programming
- **19 December, Thursday:**
0900-1400 Club Beyond "Operation Cookie" on-base Jr HS & HS service project
1500-1730 Club Beyond Jr HS & HS Christmas Bash
- **20 December, Friday:**
1800 "Star of Bethlehem" viewing, NSA chapel
- **23 December, Monday:**
1530 Confirmations with Military Archbishop Timothy Broglio, NSA chapel
1830 Christmas Celebration of Carols (cookies to follow) P911 MPR
- **24 December, Tuesday:**
1700 Christmas Vigil Mass NSA chapel
2000 Christmas Vigil Mass Isa Air Station
2300 Christmas Music presented by the Catholic Choir, NSA chapel,

followed by:

- **25 December, Wednesday:**
MIDNIGHT Mass NSA chapel (no other Masses on Christmas day at NSA chapel).

For more information please see the attachments or contact the base chapel at 439-4303 or email shaun.brown@me.navy.mil.

For Club Beyond information please contact Mr John Ritchey at 439-4303 or john.ritchey@me.navy.mil.

As noted above, we anticipate chaplains traveling hither and yon to celebrate Christmas services with those personnel who do not have their own chaplains. We very respectfully request that you plan accordingly!

CREDO update: In the past, we had to rely on outside CREDO teams to come to NSA Bahrain and offer Marriage Enrichment and Personal Growth Retreats. In the near future Region will be standing-up NSA's very own CREDO det. While separate from the NSA chaplain's office they will complement nicely the services already offered here on base. More info to follow.

As always, we will do our best to provide for the religious worship opportunities of your choice. If that's not possible we will try to facilitate an acceptable alternative (e.g., Lay Leader, worship opportunities out in town).

So if you or someone you know has a need or want currently not being met please discuss it with us and we'll try to table some options. To that end, due to a recent inquiry, we very respectfully request any Latter-day Saints of the NSA Bahrain community to contact us at shaun.brown@me.navy.mil – we are hoping to establish a worship service here on base.

As we approach the holidays, the NSA Bahrain chapel community wishes you all the best for a happy, healthy AND SAFE season! Many thanks and blessings!

LEGAL CORNER LT Tanya Nikam, JAGC, USN Legal Assistance Attorney

The NSA Bahrain Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Center is looking for volunteers during the upcoming tax season. You don't have to know anything about taxes, just be willing to learn! All volunteers will be trained in tax preparation and receive IRS certification.

Although the VITA Tax Center will be completely self-service this year, volunteers are necessary to answer questions for individuals completing their taxes through the Military One Source and other online tax programs. This service will not be successful without the essential support that volunteers provide. This is a great way to help out your NSA Family!

Last year VITA volunteers processed over 460 federal and state returns, which saved tax payers over \$60,000 in tax preparation fees and assisted them in receiving over \$450,000 in refunds.

All personnel (military/civilians/dependents/etc.) are eligible to volunteer. Interested individuals should contact LT Tanya Nikam at tanya.nikam@me.navy.mil or call 439-4237.

Holiday Safety for the Home

Every year we love to decorate our homes and businesses just in time for the holiday season. Unfortunately, the decorations that you use can increase the chance of fire in these areas. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), estimate more than 250 home fires are caused by not attending to your Christmas trees and another 170 home fires involve holiday lights that overload circuits or there not properly installed. Last year these types of fires caused 21 deaths and more than 40 injuries.

As we approach this joyous holiday season, we ask you follow some simple safety tips and rules. NSA Bahrain Fire & Emergency Services wants to make sure each family takes into consideration the use of Christmas lights, decorations and that ever popular Christmas tree.

Christmas tree Safety:

1. Never place your tree near a heat source
2. Do not smoke around the tree
3. Is your artificial tree flame retardant and UL listed
4. Always turn you're lights off and unplug when not at home or work
5. Live trees are not allowed in any work areas

Holiday Lights:

1. Inspect all lights for frayed wires before plugging into an outlet
2. Replace lights if they have excessive kinks or damage to the sockets
3. Turn all lights off when going to bed and leaving the home.
4. Never us extension cords as permanent electrical source
5. Use surge protectors that are UL listed
6. Check wires periodically to see if there warm to the touch, if so unplug lights

Decorations:

1. Use flame retardant and non-flammable decorations
2. Keep decorations clear of heating vents and candle flames
3. Once the holiday season is over take down decorations in a timely manner

As we close out 2013 and approach the New Year, NSA Bahrain Fire & Emergency Services would like to wish everyone a safe Holiday and a Happy New Year.

Hans K Christian
NSA Bahrain Fire Prevention

MWR & The Navy Exchange proudly present:

MEET SANTA

Santa will be making a special appearance at NSA Bahrain during the holiday season. Bring your family, and your camera on the following dates:

Thursday, December 5th	*1800-2000
Friday, December 13th	*1100-1400
Saturday, December 14th	*1100-1400
Friday, December 20th	*1100-1400
Saturday, December 21st	*1100-1400

Meet Santa at Santa's Summit (Rock Climbing Wall) Inside the Freedom Souq, Across from NFCU

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CAMERA FOR PHOTOS!

For more information call 439-4299

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For more information, contact Entertainment Services at 439-4237.

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Humanitarian and former NBA player Dikembe Mutombo visits NSA Bahrain

By MC2 Derric Cushman
Staff Writer

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, Bahrain — Dikembe Mutombo, former NBA star and philanthropist, visited service members aboard Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain, Dec. 8, as a part of a larger tour to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Mutombo wanted to show his support for service members by dedicating time in his schedule to come and meet with the NSA Bahrain community. He feels that as a role model, it is his responsibility to share some time to show his appreciation for what the military does on a daily basis.

"There's so much that our men and women in uniform are doing around the world," said Mutombo. "When I knew that I was coming to Bahrain on business, I thought to myself that it would be great if I could take some time out of my busy schedule to visit our men and women in uniform to thank them for the great work they are doing ensuring the United States is secure and keeping peace around the world."

Mutombo has achieved many milestones in his life. He is commonly known as one of the best defensive players in NBA history. His humanitarian efforts have been recognized by presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama. He had some words of encouragement for those serving in the U.S. military.

"First of all I want to say thank you to the service members," said Mutombo. "I know they are working very hard. I think by doing that, people will see themselves realize great success. I know it's not easy being away from home but, at the same time, service members should understand that doing what they're supposed to do will help them move up in the ranks. Today we witnessed one of the Sailors being recognized by NSA Bahrain's Capt. David Meron for his service. As he is moving on to the next chapter in his life, he can know that every where he goes, if he does his work and performs, he has a great chance to be rewarded. That's what life is all about."

Additionally, Forbes magazine recognized Mutombo as an extraordinary philanthropist in 2013. Capt. David Meron, commanding officer NSA Bahrain, was impressed by Mutombo's character.

"We have an obligation to serve and give back," said Meron. "Our military provides that to our country and he understands that completely. He portrays that same spirit



Photo by MC2 Derric Cushman

Dikembe Mutombo, former NBA star and philanthropist, was presented with a CPO 365 T-shirt during a visit aboard Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain. Mutombo visited NSA Bahrain to meet with Sailors and Marines to thank them for their service.

by setting examples for us through his tireless efforts to give back to the community. He is an amazing ambassador of the NBA and the United States. The Sailors and service members of NSA Bahrain were honored to spend a few hours with him."

Engineering Aide 1st Class Chad Hook, assigned to NSA Bahrain, felt the advice given by Mutombo was a great message for young Sailors to hear.

"I think it's great having visitors come out, especially professional sports players," said Hook. "That's what a lot of people associate with when they are kids. For people to get the chance to meet one of their idols, it's great

for young Sailors to see that there are people out there like Dikembe Mutombo who look up to them for what they do everyday."

In the future, Mutombo would like for his NBA brethren to follow in his footsteps in doing things such as his visit to NSA Bahrain.

"It's about what we are doing to serve others. I think I am doing my part, and I am trying to set an example for people to follow by being a role model. Although that is not easy, I am hoping that some of our young men who are in the NBA can see what I am doing and follow in my footsteps; I believe that is my mission.

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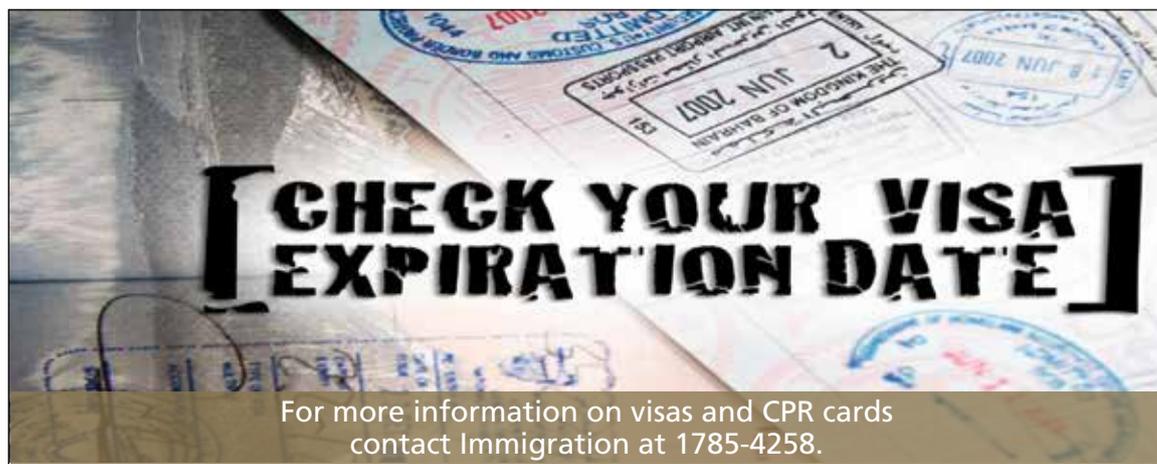
Greenert administered the oath of reenlistment to 24 Sailors from NAVCENT and NSA Bahrain and then held an all-hands call where he and Stevens spoke to Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, civilian employees and family members of NAVCENT and NSA Bahrain, answering questions from the crowd.

Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Christopher Lanehart, assigned to NAVCENT, who reenlisted for six years during the ceremony, said that having the CNO administer the oath of enlistment was an amazing opportunity.

"You see him [Greenert] on websites and posters all around the Navy but to meet the man face-to-face, and to be reenlisted by him was really special," Lanehart said. "He is really personable and you can tell he really cares about Sailors."

Stevens held additional calls with Coastal Riverine Group 2 Det. Bahrain, the crew of the Afloat Forward Staging Base (Interim) USS Ponce (AFSB(I) 15), and Naval Special Warfare Command Group 3.

Both leaders are scheduled to visit the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4), the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) and the guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg (CG 64) during their visit to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR).



For more information on visas and CPR cards
contact Immigration at 1785-4258.

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at the Bahrain High School, she has maintained a 3.2 GPA and has participated in numerous extra-curricular activities at school and with the Teen Center.

"I'm excited and little bit scared to be the NSA Bahrain Youth of the Year," said Kiera Lewis. "I'm the first one to go through the program for NSA Bahrain. It's been challenging, but I feel I am ready to go out and be the voice for the Teen Center and my community."

Kiera Lewis said the Teen Center has come a long way in the past two years. The teens once shared their space with the CYP's School-Age Care Program, but now have expanded into a new location of their own. It has become more than a club, but a home to the more than 90 teens registered there.

"We are our own little family and we just have each other because Bahrain is small," said Kiera Lewis. "After you get to know each other, you fit right in and become one of our family. I want the teens to go further than me and use my experiences, because I'm the guinea pig. We are doing this for all of us and we are all a team here."

The next step for Kiera Lewis will be to compete against other Navy programs in the region for a chance to win the Navy Region Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia (EURAFSWA) Youth of the Year. The Navy Region EURAFSWA winner will then go to Germany to compete against other military branches for the regional Military Youth of the Year and receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The next step is to compete against the other regions for the Military Youth of the Year and receive a \$10,000 scholarship.

The Military Youth of the Year will travel to Washington D.C., visit the Pentagon and the White House, and compete for the BGCA National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year receives an additional \$50,000 scholarship and is installed by the President of the United States.

Hagel Tours USS Ponce During Bahrain Visit

By Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

MANAMA, Bahrain (NNS) — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel started his first full day in Bahrain this week by visiting service members and civilian mariners aboard the USS Ponce, which he called “a purely remarkable ship.”

The Ponce was first commissioned in 1971, designated as an amphibious transport dock ship. In 2012, U.S. Central Forces Command requested an afloat forward staging base, and the Ponce was reconfigured with a well deck, helicopter operations deck, and advanced command and control capabilities. Currently crewed by 55 Navy sailors and around 120 civilian mariners, the ship can transport and support some 250 other passengers in support of 5th Fleet operations.

“It’s as flexible and agile as any platform we have,” the secretary said. “It represents ... the future of our naval operations.”

In a region Hagel termed “dangerous ... combustible and unstable,” he said a steady American presence as exemplified by the Ponce is a reassurance to allies.

During his speech tomorrow at the Manama Dialogue here and in meetings with partner nations’ leaders over the next few days, Hagel said he will emphasize the United States’ commitment to strengthening relationships in every region of the world.

“I will assure our partners that we’re not going anywhere,” he said.

Senior Navy officials spoke on background to reporters traveling with Hagel, explaining the Ponce’s capabilities and missions. The ship can embark, coordinate and integrate operations among forces from other countries and other service branches, officials said. They added that mine warfare operations are a key mission for the ship, with bilateral and multilateral anti-mine exercises scheduled as often as every few weeks.



Photo by Erin A. Kirk-Cuomo

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel speaks to troops and merchant mariners aboard the USS Ponce in Bahrain on December 6, 2013. Hagel thanked them for their service and wished them happy holidays.

The Ponce’s helicopter deck allows it to land and refuel two Army Apache helicopters at once, one official pointed out. With an Army Apache battalion based in Kuwait, he added, the Ponce’s presence offers a flexible refueling option to extend the helicopters’ reach.

“You are helping to shape much of the future for this part of the world,” Hagel told the Ponce’s crewmembers. “I want you to know that we appreciate that.”

Turning to defense funding, Hagel told his audience that Congress will be back in session next week and he hopes for an agreement on the defense budget.

The secretary conveyed his own and President Barack Obama’s holiday greetings and thanks to the troops, and expressed appreciation for their families’ support.

“This is not easy for your families, and we know that, with the sacrifices they make,” Hagel said.

Sailors fight flooding at NSA Bahrain



Photo by MC1 (SW) Steve Smith

Construction Electrician Constructionman Alexander Davis, Antonio Camaclang, Utilitiesman 2nd Class Jemol Gresham were recognized by Capt. David Meron, commanding officer of NSA Bahrain, for a job well done during November’s heavy rains. Bahrain received 2.6” of rain in just three days.

By MC2 Derric Cushman
Staff Writer

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, Bahrain — Sailors and staff from the Public Works Dept. (PWD) aboard Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain battled constant rain and flooding on base during the week of Nov. 16.

Three consecutive days of storms with heavy rain flooded numerous parts of the base such as the main parking lot, service road near the entrance to the Navy Exchange (NEX), walkways, as well as, causing roofs for some of the bases facilities to leak water.

“There were a lot of trouble calls coming into my duty phone and I had to call for assistance to help work on the buildings,” said Construction Electrician Constructionman Alexander Davis, PWD asst. supervisor of the Construction

Electrician Shop. “The leaking roofs were a huge deal because water was leaking into people offices throughout the base. I called for help and everyone was on point with the assistance they gave me. The last day of the rainstorm I received more than 50 trouble calls.”

One of the many people working on getting the flooding under control was Antonio Camaclang, a planner for PWD Utilities Shop. Camaclang said he was on duty the night of the first of the heavy rains.

“I saw that the roads were flooding so I got the pump and started pumping in building. My boss came and helped me pump the water all day with one of the vacuum pump trucks,” said Camaclang.

“I came in soon after Davis arrived and helped him to pump water from sun up to sun down, for three or four days,” said Utilitiesman 2nd Class Jemol Gresham, super-



visor of PWD Utilities Shop. “We had one to two feet of water near the Navy Central Command (NAVCENT) building. We pumped there, NSA’s Bldg. 1, and the NEX building. The trucks hold 1,000 gallons and it was tough because we moved about 40 truckloads.”

In total, the PWD staff helped to pump more than 30,000 gallons of water from NSA Bahrain, to ensure that base operations would continue as normal.

Pastries For Patriots!



Bringing Some Holiday Cheer
To Those Who Serve!

*****Monday, Dec. 23*****
12:30 to 1:00 p.m.

The Teen Center will be preparing cookies and **Presenting**
them to Sailors at the **Liberty Center**

Teens will be decorating cookies and creating "Holiday Grams" to show our
gratitude and spread happiness this holiday season!

For more information visit the Teen Center or call 439-4902

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MOVIE SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

***** MOVIE HOTLINE: 439-6916 *****



Pearl "Snorkel" Hunt

Saturday, December 21

- Time: 0745
- Min 8 people; ITT Price: \$64.00

Tree Of Life

Sunday, December 22

- Time: 1000 – 1300
- Min 5/ Max 11 people; Price: \$5.00

Cooking Demonstration Of Arabic Food & Dinner

Monday, December 23

- Time: 1700
- Min 5/ Max 10 people; ITT Price: \$23.00

Arabian Experience:

Horse Race At Sakir & Dinner At Veranda Restaurant

Friday, December 27

- Time: 1400 – 1900
- Min 8/Max 12 people; ITT Price: \$28.00

Al Areen Wildlife Park

Saturday, December 28

- Time: 0900
- Min 10 people; ITT Price: \$11.00

For more information, call x-3531
All dates and times are subject to change

Comments & Suggestions

All are welcome to send comments or suggestions to MWR Bahrain. Please e-mail them to: MWRsuggestionBox@me.navy.mil
If you would like to receive MWR Bahrain's e-mail announcements, just send your official e-mail to the above address.

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Thursday, December 12
Twelve Days of Holidays Begins!

Friday, December 13
Video Game Tournament
• Time: 1300

Sunday, December 15
Sunday Sundaes
• Free Ice Cream Sundae (while supplies last)
***Where is Santa?**

Monday, December 16
Speed Pool
• Time: 1130; Free Pizza for players
***Where is Santa?**

Tuesday-Thursday, December 17-19
***Where is Santa?**

Saturday, December 21
Grand Mosque and Bahrain National Museum Trip
• Only \$4.00

Sunday, December 22
Sunday Sundaes
• Free Ice Cream Sundae (while supplies last)

Monday, December 23
Liberty Holiday Party
• Time: 1130

Tuesday, December 24
Holiday Mad Lib
• Time: 1130

Wednesday, December 25
Christmas Day!

For more information, call the Liberty Center at 439-3192



@NSA Bahrain